

Message Text

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SUBJ: ITALIAN MEDIA REACTION TO MORO SPEECH

SUMMARY: LEAD ITEM TV ALL EVENING NEWSCASTS AND NINE PAPERS; FRONT PAGE ITEM ALL OTHERS. TV AND RADIO REFRAINED FROM COMMENTS; SO DID CORRIERE DELLA SERA AND LA STAMPA. IL GIORNO POSITIVE. IL TEMPO CRITICAL OF MORO'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ARABS. LA NAZIONE'S CHIEF EDITOR SARCASTICALLY LABELS MORO "A WASTED TALENT." IL MESSAGGERO SAYS ITALY HAS NO FOREIGN POLICY. AVANTI, L'UNITA' AND PAESE SERA SAY SPEECH IS IMPORTANT AND SHOWS CLEARCUT SUPPORT OF ARABS.

1. MAIN EVENING TV NEWSCAST CARRIED FIVE MIN. SUMMARY OF SPEECH STRESSING THAT "MORO REFUTED CHARGES THAT SINCE IT. GOVT HAS NO ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY, ITALY COULD DO NOTHING TO CHANGE ME SITUATION DURING CONFLICT. HE ALSO SAID THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT HAVE SAFE BORDERS, THAT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS MUST BE GRANTED, THAT ATLANTIC PACT MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY ME WAR, BUT EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS HAVE BASIC INTERESTS IN COMMON, AND NEED EACH OTHER. MORNING RADIO NEWSCASTS CARRIED SIMILAR REPORT.

2. CORRIERE DELLA SERA HEADLINE F/P: "MORO SAYS: ITALY BELIEVES ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITO-
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RIES." PAPER REFRAINS FROM ANY COMMENT BUT NOTES THAT ITAL

FONMIN "WAS VERY ARGUMENTATIVE WITH HIS MANY CRITICS WHO HAVE CHARGED ITALY'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH IMMOBILITY DURING THE ME CRISIS," AND THAT MORO "WAS EXPLICIT ON ITALY'S INTERPRETATION OF UN RESOLUTION 242." PAPER CONCLUDES THAT MORO "THREW LOT OF WATER ON FIRE OF RECENT EVENTS CONCERNING ITAL-LIBYAN RELATIONS." MORO'S STATEMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH US AND EEC IGNORED IN CORRIERE STORY.

3. LA STAMPA NOTES "MAIN AND MOST INTERESTING SECTION (MORO SPEECH) WAS ON ITALIAN POSITION ON ME QUESTION EXPRESSED IN TERMS MORE EXPLICIT THAN USUAL, ALTHOUGH THEY EXPRESS AS FONMIN POINTED OUT, OLD LINE ON WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN POLEMICS DUE TO 'INADEQUATE INTERPRETATION.'"

4. IL GIORNO, SAID MORO REPLIED "BOTH TO THOSE WHO CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR UNCLEAR POLICY TOWARD ARAB WORLD, AND THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN NEGATIVE MEANING TO FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON. FONMIN INDICATED COHERENT LINE THAT TIES OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH ARAB WORLD TO GUARANTEES OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE, AND EUROPE COOPERATION WITH ARAB WORLD TO DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE-US RELATIONS. AS HE TOLD ARAB OIL MINISTERS, MORO CONFIRMED ITALY ALWAYS FAVORABLE MOST EXTENSIVE INTERPRETATION UN RESOLUTION. ITALIAN POSITION ON PALESTINIAN CAUSE EQUALLY CLEAR. ON SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, MORO HAS PARTICULARLY PRAISED KISSINGER, CALLED INDEFATIGABLE AND INTELLIGENT."

5. IL TEMPO, SAID "OBVIOUSLY THE FONMIN STATEMENTS ARE TIED TO THE PRESSURES CARRIED OUT FEW WEEKS AGO BY ARAB OIL MINISTERS IN ROME. FEISAL'S AND BOUMEDIENNE'S ENVOYS STATED PUBLICLY THEY EXPECTED FORMAL ITALIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF RAB INTERPRETATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. AS WE FORECAST THEN, THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE BY FONMIN TO SENATE COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN SOLEMN FORM REQUESTED BY ARABS. THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY DONE TO MITIGATE IMPRESSION OF SURRENDER TO ARAB REQUESTS, BACKED BY POWERFUL PERSUASIVE EFFECT OF OIL THREATS. MORO HAS DUTIFULLY CARRIED OUT COMMITMENT OBVIOUSLY MADE BY ITALIAN STATESMEN DURING TALKS WITH ARAB MINISTERS, GIVING UP DEVICES THAT IN PAST ALLOWED OUR DIPLOMACY TO KEEP BALANCED POSITION BETWEEN ME SIDES. WE MAY OBSERVE THAT FONMIN EXPRESSED EXCESSIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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EMPHASIS IN EMBRACING ARAB THESES, AND HE COULD HAVE USED LESS INSISTENT TONE IN STATEMENT THAT WILL NOT BE FULLY WELCOMED BY ENTIRE PUBLIC OPINION." AFTER REGRETTING THAT EUROPE DID NOT SHOW UNITED FRONT, TEMPO SAYS THAT "WHILE OUR SUPPORT OF ARABS IS EXPLAINED BY NATIONAL INTEREST, WE DO NOT FEEL IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE SUCH INSISTENT FRIENDLY OFFERS TO LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS NEVER MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO DAMAGE AND HUMILIATE US."

6. IL MESSAGGERO IN F/P EDITORIAL HIGHLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY, CONDEMNS ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF POLICY. "THERE NEVER ARE SERIOUS DEBATES OF VITAL PROBLEMS IN PARLIAMENT. WE CONSTANTLY MISS OUR CHANCES. LATEST EXAMPLE WAS MORO AT SENATE COMMITTEE. WHAT SQUALOR. WORDS AND WORDS TO SAY ONLY THAT ITALY HAS DONE NOTHING AND TO JUSTIFY THIS INERTIA. POLITICAL GIST OF SPEECH IS BELATED ACCEPTANCE OF ARAB THESIS ON ISRAEL WITHDRAWAL OF TERRITORIES."

7. LA NAZIONE, FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL NOTE BY PAPERS CHIEF EDITOR HEADED: "A WASTED TALENT. THE FIRST CONSIDERATION IS SAD: THE ARAB OIL MINISTERS WERE RIGHT WHEN THEY FORECAST THAT ITALY WOULD ACCEPT THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE UN RESOLUTION. MORO ACCEPTS FULLY THE ARAB THESIS, AND IS VERY NEAR TO PALESTINIAN DEMANDS. NOT A WORD TO REFUTE THOSE INFLUENTIAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS REQUESTING DESTRUCTION OF ISRAELI STATE. NOT A WORD ON TERRORISM, NOR ON AIRPORT MASSACRE, EXCEPT FOR A PROCLAMATION OF QHADDAFI'S INNOCENCE. NO WONDER THE COMMUNISTS PROMPTLY APPROVED THIS PART OF SPEECH. MORO HAS EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY INDRESSING UP FACTS WITH SPECIAL SAUCE OF RESIGNED REALISM AND UNJUSTIFIED OPTIMISM. WHAT SHAME THAT THIS TALENT IS SO WASTED. PERHAPS THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TODAY FOR ITALY TO HAVE OR FEIGN SOME KIND OF FOREIGN POLICY. HERE NO REFERENCE IN HIS SPEECH OF DRAMATIC EEC CRISIS, DIVIDED ON ALL ISSUES. WHERE IS STATESMAN WHO BETWEEN 1964 AND 68 FIRMLY SUPPORTED ITALIAN VITAL FOREIGN POLICY POSITION. THOSE WHO ADMIRE HIM THEN CANNOT ADMIRE HIM NOW."

8. AVANTI, LEAD ITEM, HEADLINES: "MORE ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES" AND NOTES: "MORO'S SPEECH WAS VERY COMPREHENSIVE AND FULL OF STINGING REMARKS AGAINST HIS CRITICS; THE SPEECH OUTLINED SUBSTANTIALLY OPTIMISTIC UNCLASSIFIED

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PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT IGNORE THE MANY PRESENT DIFFICULTIES."VOLPE

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